

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: ELCOMERCIO DEFENDS ITS REVOLUTIONARY RECORD

REF: LIMA 5778

1. IN FRONT-PAGE STORY JULY 16 CONSERVATIVE EL COMERCIO BANNERED OPINION ARTICLE THAT PAPER HAS "ALREADY BEEN AT SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY." ARTICLE MAKES TEN-POINT DEFENSE OF THE PAPER WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A "DEFENDER" OF PERU'S NATIONAL INTEREST.

2. STORY BEGINS BY NOTING THAT AN "ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN" DESTINED TO DISTORT THE IMAGE OF THE PAPER HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO SILENCE THE PAPER AND THAT IT IS SAID THAT THE PAPER IS AN ORGAN OF A FAMILY WHICH DEFENDS ONLY ITS OWN INTERESTS AND NOT THOSE OF THE COUNTRY. RELUCTANTLY, THE STORY CONTINUES, EL COMERCIO DOES NOT DESIRE TO DISCUSS SUCH A SUBJECT BUT IT IS OBLIGED TO DO SO IN ORDER TO GIVE THE LIE TO FALSE CHARGES AGAINST IT. THE STORY THEN LISTS TEN SUBJECT WHICH EL COMERCIO CLAIMS IT HAS DEFENDED DURING THE LAST FIFTY YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING, AMONG OTHERS: RECUPERATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES--OIL RIGHTS, AGRARIAN REFORM, A HEALTHY STATE BANKING SYSTEM, REFORMED INCOME TAX SYSTEM, PERUVIAN

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CONTROL OVER NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES, CONSTRUCTION OF

A PERUVIAN OIL REFINERY, CREATION OF A NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTERPRISE, THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA, OPPOSITION TO EXCESSIVE DEPLETION ALLOWANCES OF FOREIGN MINING COMPANIES, AND SUPPORT FOR PERU'S FOREIGN POLICY.

3. COMMENT: EL COMERCIO STORY IS OBVIOUSLY A DEFENSE OF ITS "REVOLUTIONARY BONA FIDES" IN FACE OF CONCERTED ATTACK BY PRO-GOVERNMENT EXPRESO AND NUEVA CRONICA AND ITS KNOWLEDGE THAT OUTRIGHT EXPROPRIATION IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AS ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES, WHICH GOP PRESENTLY CONSIDERING FOR THE PRESS.
DEAN

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